

Maryland ranks 2nd nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who have passed an Advanced Placement (AP) exam, and leads the country in improving that figure. Twenty-two percent of the class of 2006 scored a 3–5 on at least one AP exam, an 8-percentage-point increase over the class of 2000—the nation's largest gain over that time.

The College Board

For the 4th—straight year, students' scores on state reading and math tests rose in all 24 school systems. Maryland School Assessment scores improved at all grade levels, among students of all races, and for most students receiving special services. Since 2003, the number of elementary school students meeting state standards has jumped 19 percentage points in reading and 21 points in math; the number of middle school students meeting standards has climbed 12 points in reading and 23½ points in math.

Maryland State
Department of Education

Maryland ranks 3rd in the U.S. in education performance and policy, according to Education Week, and is one of three states to earn the newspaper's highest letter-grade. Maryland's overall score in six categories (83.5%) is just 1½ points shy of the national leader. In K-12 Achievement—based on NAEP scores/score improvement, closing the poverty gap, AP performance, and graduation rate—Maryland is #2. In Transitions and Alignment—measuring how well states align K-12 education with early learning, college, and workplace expectations—Maryland is #3.

Education Week

Maryland ranks 4th nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who have taken an AP exam. One-third of the class of 2006 took at least one AP exam, a proportion bested by just two other states and Washington, DC.

The College Board

Maryland leads the U.S. in improving 8th-graders' math performance. Seventy-four percent of 8th-graders met or exceeded the Basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), an 8-percentage-point gain over 2005, and the largest gain in the nation. Also securing a #1 ranking was the middle-schoolers' 8-point average score increase.

National Center
for Education Statistics

Maryland students outperform their peers nationwide on elementary and middle school reading and math assessments. On NAEP's 4th- and 8th-grade reading test and 8th-grade math test, students posted scores significantly higher than the U.S. average and made significant progress over 2005. Only five states outperform Maryland in 4th-grade reading and 8th-grade math.

National Center for Education Statistics

Maryland's cumulative SAT score ranks 2nd in the College Board's Middle States region. Across reading, writing, and math, Maryland students posted an average score of 1498, just one point shy of region leader New Jersey.

The College Board

Maryland is among the top seven states in preparing students for college. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Maryland an A– in college preparation, a grade bested by just three other states; an A in college participation; a B in college completion; and an A in the economic and societal benefits of having a highly educated population.

National Center for Public Policy
and Higher Education

More children are entering school ready to learn. More than two-thirds of new kindergarteners were fully ready for the curriculum last year, an 18-percentage-point jump over 2001, when fewer than half were. The number of students fully ready in terms of language and literacy (the best predictor of later academic success) has climbed 20 percentage points since 2001.

Maryland State
Department of Education

Among states, Maryland ranks 3rd in child care standards and oversight. States were ranked on such indicators as staff-to-child ratios, program quality, staff credentials and training, center licensing and inspections, and parent access and involvement.

National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Maryland ranks 3rd in the U.S. for its number of nationally accredited family child care providers.

National Association of Family Child Care Providers

Maryland ranks among the top 10 states in providing pre-kindergarten to 4-year-olds. Last year, Maryland more than doubled the national preK enrollment gain, posting a 16-percentage-point increase.

Southern Regional Education Board

Maryland posted the U.S.'s 4th-largest gain in the number of children receiving free meals over the summer. The number of students participating in summer nutrition programs jumped 15% over last year. This is the second year in a row that Maryland has earned a top-five ranking.

Food Research and Action Center

Maryland's graduation rate outpaces the nation's overall and in all racial subgroups. Maryland's graduation rate of 74.7% exceeds the national rate by nearly 5 percentage points.

Education Week

Maryland fielded the country's 11th-largest group of teachers to earn national certification. In 2007, 229 Maryland teachers were certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, bringing the total number of nationally certified teachers in the state to 1056. Maryland ranks 15th nationwide in the number of nationally certified teachers.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

Maryland is one of just three states in a 16-state consortium making promising progress toward producing excellent school leaders. The Southern Regional Education Board judged states on learning-focused leadership standards; recruitment; the overhaul of universities' principal-preparation programs; tiered licensing for principals; alternative licensure; and professional development. Maryland improved its ratings in four of the six categories.

Southern Regional Education Board

Enrollment in Maryland's Cisco Academy is up 27% over last year, ranking the state 3rd in the U.S. for 2006-2007 enrollment growth. Maryland's Cisco Academy was the first in the nation to offer advanced Cisco Certified Networking Professional (CCNP) courses in high school, and remains one of few high schools in the country offering an advanced CCNP curriculum.

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland received a \$6.2 million federal grant to better serve students in special education. The five-year grant will help school systems recruit personnel and improve professional development for educators working with students with disabilities.

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland is one of only three states to receive a second, multi-million-dollar GEAR UP grant. The grant provides for intensive high school math instruction that helps students get into college, and promotes college awareness among students who are not typically college-bound.

Maryland State Department of Education

In 2007, Maryland awarded 18 school systems \$1.9 million to plan and implement rigorous science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. Sixty-two schools have already implemented STEM programs and dozens more are planning them.

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland won the Joseph H. Oakley Excellence in Education Award for its implementation of Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a national pre-engineering program that prepares students for engineering majors and careers. More than 2,500 students are enrolled in the PLTW pre-engineering program, a 79% increase over last year alone.

Project Lead The Way

Maryland has partnered with six other states to pilot a PLTW biomedical sciences program. Seven schools began offering the program this year, which is designed to produce a larger and more diverse group of students majoring in science, engineering, and biotechnology.

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland leads the nation in Advanced Placement (AP) pass rate. For every 100 juniors and seniors in Maryland, 34.5 AP exams are scored a 3 or higher. That's more than double the national average of 16.9 exams. Plus, since 2000, Maryland has upped the number of exams passed by 17.7, nearly triple the national gain of 6 exams.

The College Board

Nearly 1,400 students applied to the 17 Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Education. The 871 students selected for admission filled the centers to capacity. African-American students made up 16% of Summer Center participants in 2007, up from 1% in 2001.

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland schools are going global. Nearly 229,000 K-12 students are enrolled in world-language courses. Ten school districts now offer AP Chinese as a foreign-language option, up from three districts just two years ago.

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland schools are going greener. A record-setting 27 new schools and five outdoor education centers joined the Green Schools program in 2007, bringing Maryland's total number of green schools to 163.

Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education

Maryland won a five-year, \$2.9 million grant to help 400 high school students with disabilities find fulfilling careers. The grant creates the Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative, which will help state and local agencies provide uninterrupted, collaborative career services beginning in early high school and continuing into graduates' first few months of permanent employment.

Maryland State Department of Education

In 2007, 3,100 people went to work after taking part in Maryland's vocational rehabilitation programs. Nearly 1,000 more are working and receiving follow-along services that will allow them to move into permanent employment. Plus, more than 1,300 people with significant disabilities went from receiving public benefits to becoming employed taxpayers.

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland is helping more students with disabilities transition from school to work or postsecondary education. In 2007, 6,855 students received transitioning services, 300 more than the year before. Another 227 students recently completed services.

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland Public Education

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